

Claims

What is claimed is:

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1. A system for capturing, encoding and transmitting continuous video from a camera to a display monitor via a network, comprising:
 - a. An encoder for receiving a video signal from the camera, the encoder producing a high-resolution output signal and a low-resolution output signal representing the video signal;
 - b. A switching network for receiving both the high-resolution output signal and the low-resolution output signal;
 - c. A display monitor for in communication with the router for selectively displaying one of said high-resolution output signal and said low-resolution output signal.
 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the switching network is a hub.
 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the switching network is a switched hub.
 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the switching network is a router.
 5. The system of claim 1, further including a selector for selecting between the high-resolution output signal and the low-resolution output signal based on the dimensional size of the display.
 6. The system of claim 5, further including a selection device for manually selecting between the high-resolution output signal and the low-resolution output signal.
 7. The system of claim 5, further including a control device for automatically selecting between the high-resolution output signal and the low-resolution output signal based on the size of the display.

8. The system of claim 5, further including a control device adapted for assigning a priority to an event captured at a camera and selecting between the high-resolution output signal and the low-resolution output signal based on the priority of the event.

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9. The system of claim 5, wherein there is further included a plurality of cameras and an encoder associated with each of said cameras, the high-resolution output signal and low-resolution output signal unique to each camera being transmitted to the router, and wherein the display monitor is adapted for displaying any combination of camera signals.

10. The system of claim 5, wherein the displayed signal at the display monitor is selected between the high-resolution signal and the low-resolution signal of each camera dependent upon the number of cameras signals simultaneously displayed at the display monitor.

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11. The system of claim 1, wherein there is further included a plurality of display monitors, each of which is in communication with the router, whereby each display monitor may selectively display the high-resolution signal and the low-resolution signal.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein there is further included a plurality of cameras and an encoder associated with each of said cameras, the high-resolution output signal and low-resolution output signal unique to each camera being transmitted to the router, and wherein there is further included a management system associated with each display monitor whereby each of the plurality of display monitors is adapted for displaying any combination of camera signals independently of the other of said plurality of display monitors.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein the display monitor includes a mapping feature illustrating the location of the camera.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein the output signal for the camera may be selected by activating the camera location on the mapping feature.

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15. The system of claim 1, wherein ~~the communications link between the router and the display monitor~~ is a network.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the network is hardwired.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein the network is wireless.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein the network is a wide area network.

19. The system of claim 15 wherein the network is a local area network.

20. The system of claim 1, wherein the communications link between the encoder and the router is a network.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the network is hardwired.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the network is wireless.

23. The system of claim 20, wherein the network is a wide area network.

24. The system of claim 20, wherein the network is a local area network.

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25. The system of claim 1, further including ~~a compressor between the encoder and the router~~

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